



## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE – 3/10/10 Updated 6/24/10

### GENERAL BACKGROUND

#### What is the Common Core State Standards Initiative?

A state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) for states to adopt a set common standards. Forty-eight states have agreed to adopt the Common Core Standards as their state standards.

#### What are the Common Core Standards?

The Common Core Standards include K-12 College- and Career-Ready Standards for **English/Language Arts** and **Mathematics** that define the knowledge and skills students should have to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The Common Core Standards:

- are aligned with college and work expectations.
- include rigorous content *and* application of knowledge through high-order skills.
- build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards.
- are internationally benchmarked.
- are evidence and/or research-based.

### INDIANA'S CONTEXT

#### Why is this initiative important for Indiana's students?

Currently, every state has its own set of academic standards, meaning students in each state are potentially learning to different levels. Expectations for students will be consistent across all states and territories, preparing Indiana's students to compete with their peers in the next state. Additionally, the Common Core Standards are internationally benchmarked priming Indiana's students to compete globally.

#### Why is this initiative important for Indiana's educators?

Adopting the Common Core Standards will allow for more focused pre-service training and professional development. Educators will have the opportunity to tailor curriculum, improve teaching methods, and promote the sharing of best practices within a national context.

#### Will Indiana provide information on how Indiana's Academic Standards align to the Common Core Standards?

The Indiana Department of Education staff worked to review the Common Core Standards in relation to Indiana's Academic Standards. During the development process, the IDOE submitted feedback to CCSSO which was incorporated into the final draft. IDOE is analyzing the alignment of the Indiana Standards and the Common Core Standards. Teachers will receive summary documents to help them easily see the changes between the two sets of standards. Indiana will also conduct a Survey of Enacted Curriculum (SEC) comparing the two sets of standards. The resulting topographical maps will also be shared.

### **Will Indiana adopt the Common Core Standards?**

Indiana will adopt the Common Core Standards on August 3, 2010.

### **When will Indiana have the finalized Common Core Standards?**

The K-12 standards were released on June 2, 2010. They can be accessed at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). These standards will be added to the Indiana Standards webpage during the 2010-11 school year.

### **What is Indiana's plan for transitioning to the Common Core Standards?**

A team of Indiana educators will be selected to serve as the Professional Cabinet to provide input and feedback on the development of a scope and sequence and state curriculum maps which will be developed for English/Language Arts and Mathematics for each grade. For the 2010-11 school year, curriculum maps for Indiana's current standards will be developed, and Acuity assessments will be created to align to the curriculum maps. Indiana will work with other states during the 2010-11 school year to develop curriculum resources for the Common Core. IDOE will then work with the Professional Cabinet to add the Common Core State Standards to the Indiana curriculum maps. It will be necessary for teachers to teach both sets of standards to address content and skill gaps between the two sets of standards, so students are not left with gaps in their learning. The 2011-12 curriculum maps will assist teachers in seeing how to align curriculum to best teach both sets of standards.

### **What are the benefits to using the state's curriculum map? Will schools that already have a curriculum mapping process have to change what they do?**

The curriculum map developed by IDOE will provide the common scope and sequence which will allow formative assessments to be aligned to the curriculum. It will also provide clarity in interpreting the standards by providing the discrete content and skills that students will need to learn to demonstrate the standards. The goal is for all curriculum mapping software companies to be able to house the state's curriculum maps as a starting point for teachers to use in planning their instruction. The curriculum mapping process used by a school would remain the same in terms of the software they use, the way teachers create their own diary maps of the enacted curriculum, and how those maps are used to analyze the relationship between student achievement and the enacted curriculum.

### **What is the state's timeline for implementing the Common Core Standards and how will that impact ISTEP+ and End-of-Course Assessments?**

#### ***We anticipate:***

For the 2010-2011 school year, the Indiana Academic Standards for Mathematics **2000** and English/language arts **2006** should be taught and will be assessed. The 2009 Mathematics standards will NOT be taught.

For the 2011-2012 school year, the Common Core (new) Math and English/Language Arts Standards should be taught along with the Indiana Standards. Selected schools will pilot ISTEP+ items based upon the Common Core Standards. Indiana Standards will be assessed on ISTEP+.

For the 2012-2014 school year, we anticipate ISTEP+ will provide an ISTEP+ score based on Indiana Standards and used for accountability purposes and will provide a Common Core score which will provide schools and teachers with information on how their students are achieving related to the Common Core State Standards. This will give schools two years of data to be used to make adjustments to their curriculum and instruction before the accountability test is based solely on the Common Core State Standards. The first Common Core national test is expected for the 2014-15 school year but will depend upon final US DOE regulations and requirements.

**Should we adopt math textbooks now or opt for continued use? Will math textbooks be available that align with the Common Core Standards soon?**

Textbook companies are beginning to make available new or supplemental materials which better align to the Common Core State Standards. The IDOE is recommending that districts adopt textbooks aligned to the Common Core Standards. The adoption cycle was extended by the Textbook Adoption Committee through the 2010-11 school year.

**Will the DANA Center Tools for selecting math curricular materials be updated with the Common Core Standards so those tools can be used during the 2010-11 school year by the school districts?**

Yes. Additionally, IDOE will work with the I-STEM Resource Network and the DANA Center to review materials based on the Common Core and provide those results to schools to assist in narrowing the field and selecting materials.

**The State Board of Education provided a blanket waiver for textbook adoption. What kinds of materials can be purchased with our textbook rental fees?**

Any materials which will be used by students can be purchased with textbook rental fees. This includes software, online subscriptions, a portion of the cost of a student laptop computer used for instruction, paper for copying materials needed for students, textbooks, and workbooks. Specific questions about materials not listed here can be addressed to the Office of School Finance.

**What opportunities is the state making available to schools to learn more about textbook alternatives/digital content or help districts who have materials which are no longer suitable for instruction?**

Educators can sign up for Learning Connection and join the [Digital Curriculum and Textbook Alternatives](#) Community to learn about what other schools are doing and to pose questions for the group.

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